



# Huntington Beach Police Department

2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

(714) 960-8811

Robert Handy, Chief of Police

## MEDIA ADVISORY

Sergeant D. Dereszynski, Traffic Unit

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**Release Date/Time:** February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9:00 AM

**Subject:** DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint this Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

**Case Number:** N/A

### Details:

The Huntington Beach Police Department Traffic Unit will be conducting a DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint this Friday night, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, between the hours of 7:00 PM and 3:00 AM.

The deterrent effect of DUI checkpoints is a proven resource in reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol or drug involved crashes. Research shows that crashes involving an impaired driver can be reduced by up to 20 percent when well-publicized DUI checkpoints and proactive DUI patrols are conducted routinely.

In California, this deadly crime led to 802 deaths in 2012 because someone failed to designate a sober driver. Nationally, the latest data shows nearly 10,000 were killed by an impaired driver. The Huntington Beach Police Department would like every resident and visitor to have an accident and injury free Valentine's Day Weekend. This will take the cooperation of all motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and onlookers to spot DUI drivers before they make the poor decision to drive. According to the most recent Office of Traffic Safety statistics, Huntington Beach is ranked #1 for alcohol involved collisions and #3 for fatal and injury collisions when compared to 56 other cities our size. Huntington Beach also falls in the top five of 56 cities for drivers ages 21-34 who had been drinking, motorcycle collisions, bicycle collisions, and nighttime collisions (9 PM to 3 AM). A recent analysis of our DUI arrests shows 53% of the arrestees reside outside Huntington Beach. This tells us the DUI drivers are not only traveling a greater distance through Huntington Beach but are further jeopardizing the public outside the city. Keep your eyes open as sometimes the slightest improper driving action may be a clue that someone is under the influence of alcohol, medications, or drugs. Checkpoints are one form of education and enforcement which the HBPD uses to work towards our goal of ZERO alcohol involved collisions.

Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment with officers checking drivers for proper licensing delaying motorists only momentarily. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving. Recent statistics reveal that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol.



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According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while also yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent. Nearly 90 percent of California drivers approve of DUI checkpoints.

DUI Checkpoints are placed in locations based on collision statistics and frequency of DUI arrests affording the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence. Locations are chosen with safety considerations for the officers and the public.

Drivers caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes, other expenses that can exceed \$10,000 not to mention the embarrassment when friends and family find out.

Funding for this checkpoint is provided to the Huntington Beach Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reminding everyone to 'Report Drunk Drivers -Call 9-1-1'.